

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 017410
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AS-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /011 R

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APPROVED BY EA/IMS:EDWARD C. INGRAHAM
-----261536Z 052801 /41
O 261506Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 017410

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, BGEN

SUBJECT:SEYMOUR HERSH STORY - DOMSAT

REF: JAKARTA 13984 (OCT 76)

1. WE BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THE JAN 25 NEW YORK TIMES
FRONT PAGE STORY QUOTE HUGHES AIRCRAFT FACES ALLEGATION
THAT IT USED BRIBERY IN INDONESIA UNQUOTE BY HERSH WHICH
IS CARRIED IN TODAY'S WIRELESS FILE.

2. FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR
TODAY'S DEPT'S NOON BRIEFING:

QUOTE:

QUESTION: WHAT DOES THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE KNOW ABOUT
THE ALLEGATION THAT HUGHES AIRCRAFT USED BRIBERY TO
SECURE A LARGE CONTRACT IN INDONESIA IN 1973-74?

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ANSWER: WE HAVE NO INFORMATION TO SUBSTANTIATE THE ALLEGATION. IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR NORMAL COMMERCIAL FUNCTIONS, MEMBERS OF THE JAKARTA EMBASSY STAFF WERE IN TOUCH WITH VARIOUS REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN COMPANIES

RECORDS OF THOSE MEETINGS WHICH WE HAVE CHECKED DO NOT

SHOW THAT ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPER PAYMENTS WERE MADE.

QUESTION: HOW ABOUT THE REFERENCE IN THE TIMES STORY
TO CURRENT EMBASSY OFFICERS SAYING THAT IF PAYMENTS
LIKE THESE CAME BACK TO INDONESIA IT WOULDN'T BE ALL THAT
BAD SINCE THEY WOULD HELP DEVELOP THE COUNTRY?

ANSWER: OBVIOUSLY, THAT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT,
IF IT WAS MADE AT ALL. AS WE HAVE SAID ON NUMEROUS
OCCASIONS, THE DEPARTMENT STRONGLY DEPLORES IMPROPER
BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.

3. THERE WERE NO QUESTIONS REGARDING Hersh STORY AT
TODAY'S NOON BRIEFING.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: DTKENNEY:CCH
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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